

BENJAMIN GEORGE.

JANUARY 27, 1904.—Committed to the Committee of the Whole House and ordered to be printed.

Mr. FULLER, from the Committee on Invalid Pensions, submitted the following

REPORT.

[To accompany H. R. 6038.]

The Committee on Invalid Pensions, to whom was referred the bill (H. R. 6038) granting an increase of pension to Benjamin George, submit the following report:

This bill proposes to increase the pension of the soldier named therein from \$12 to \$30 per month.

Benjamin George, now 72 years of age, served as a sergeant in Company F, First Kansas Infantry, from June 1, 1861, to August 30, 1865, when honorably discharged.

He was wounded in a skirmish at Lake Providence, La., June 29, 1863, in the right thigh.

He is now pensioned under the act of June 27, 1890, at \$12 for total disability due to the gunshot wound of the right thigh and disease of eyes.

He was formerly pensioned under the general law on account of the gunshot wound of thigh and disease of eyes at \$6 per month, and in this rating the disability due to cataract was, of course, excluded.

When last examined, on April 8, 1891, the board of surgeons rated him \$4 for the wound of the right thigh and \$12 for disease of eyes, and the board of surgeons then stated that there was opacity of the crystalline lens of the left eye; that the right eye had been operated on for cataract; that Snellen's test, at a distance of 10 feet, vision with either eye, was all a blank.

Medical testimony filed with your committee sets forth that the beneficiary has been nearly totally blind for some years, that one eye was practically blind, caused by hard cataract, and that the other eye was in about the same condition, showing a loss of a large portion of the iris as well as a large excrecence located upon the cornea; that he does not possess sufficient sight to perform any manual labor whatever, and that he is wholly dependent upon his pension of \$12 per month, being unable to do anything or to get about without assistance.

In view of the soldier's honorable service of four years, his well-nigh blindness and destitution, an increase of his pension to \$30 per month is just and proper.

The passage of the bill is therefore recommended.

